

Located in the heart of America's breadbasket, Iowa's agricultural heritage goes back many generations. Iowans appreciate how significant our food system is, not only to basic human existence, but to the State's economy and also to our way of life.

As the leading producer of corn, soybeans, hogs, and eggs in America, Iowa's high-quality agricultural bounty would make George Washington proud. The farmer and our first President, George Washington, once said:

Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment to man.

At the turn of the 21st century, Iowa is working to stay on the leading edge of the research and use its bounty to benefit biotechnology and advances in life science. Whether growing crops for pharmaceutical use or raising cattle capable of producing proteins that can be used for human drug therapies, Iowa has significant potential to create good, high-paying jobs and reap economic benefits in ways unimaginable at the turn of the last century when the production of food was all that was on farmers' minds.

With several farmer-owned ethanol plants up and running, Iowa also is fueling local economic activity and helping to increase our energy independence by turning home-grown corn into ethanol, lessening our dependence upon a foreign source such as Iraq, for instance.

As a life-long family farmer, I take advantage of every opportunity in Washington, DC, in Congress, like now in this Senate Chamber, to serve as a farmer's advocate because I want to make sure that family farmers' voices are heard at the policy tables in Washington. Notwithstanding the need to keep our food production and supply system safe from sabotage, Americans are blessed to live in a Nation where food security does not mean wondering if there is enough food available to feed one's family every day.

National Agriculture Week, March 16 to 22, is a good opportunity to showcase American agriculture and to give thanks to those who work hard to get high quality, affordable food from the farm to our table. I hope every one of those people living in urban America who might think that food grows in super markets rather than on farms would give a thought to the usefulness of the family farm and what it contributes to the quality of life of Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I first want to commend the Senator for his eloquent statement. I think it is always important to remind Americans, no matter where they live, of the productivity of American agriculture and the importance, particularly, of our family farmers. There is no one who is a greater advocate for America's farmers than the Senator from Iowa. So I am very pleased to have had the privilege of hearing his comments today.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of the legislation are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

POST-BALANCED BUDGET ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I want to discuss the upcoming budget resolution and its impact on home health agencies. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Post-Balanced Budget Act reductions in home health care have totaled more than \$72 billion between fiscal years 1998 and 2002. This is more than four times the \$16 billion that CBO originally estimated for that time period and it is a clear indication that the Medicare home health cutbacks have been far deeper than Congress ever intended.

As a consequence of these reductions, cost-efficient home health agencies across the country have experienced acute financial difficulties and cashflow problems which have inhibited their ability to deliver vital care. Home health spending has been cut in half since 1997. More than 3,400 home health care agencies have either closed their doors or stopped serving Medicare patients. Moreover, the number of Medicare patients receiving home health care nationwide has dropped by 1.3 million, more than a third. This points out the most central and critical issue: Cuts of this magnitude simply cannot be sustained without ultimately affecting patient care, without ultimately diminishing the provision of care to some of the most vulnerable citizens in our Nation.

It, therefore, is my intent to offer an amendment to the budget resolution this week calling on the Senate to stabilize and promote fairness in Medicare home health reimbursements by avoiding further cuts in home health spending, preserving the full market basket update, and restoring funding for this important benefit, including the extension of the 10 percent rural add-on reimbursement I have discussed today. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I will make a few comments in morning business. I agree with the Senator from Maine. As cochairman of the Rural Health Caucus in the Senate, we have been working for a very long time and will continue to work for equity payments between urban and rural areas. In this instance, in-home health care costs are often higher in rural areas.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I will talk a moment about an issue that has been important to Wyoming and to the entire country. As in many cases, the things we do here and the national

laws we pass have different effects in different places. Wyoming, being a rather large State, a rural State, is 50 percent owned by the Federal Government. When we talk about endangered species, the program works much differently than it does in Delaware. There needs to be a certain amount of flexibility, as is the case with many things we do.

I am for endangered species acts. It is proper we have programs that protect various endangered species, whether they be plants or animals. That should continue. However, we have been in this program now since about 1970 and there are, from our experience, changes we ought to consider. I am convinced this program needs some kind of change.

Unfortunately, the results we have had are not the kind of results we intended. There has been a large amount of listing of endangered species but very little recovery. Of course, the purpose, the bottom line, is intended to protect special species and to recover them so they are self-supporting. We are hopeful we can strengthen the program to some degree so we can emphasize the recovery rather than simply the listing. The listing has an impact, particularly where there are interspersed private and public lands. What is done in public lands affects those on private lands.

Because of the way lands were developed in the West with the Homestead Act, part of the lands were homesteaded and are now private. Those that were public are used by those folks with leases and they intermingle. It is an overlapping issue.

We have had several experiences in our State and particularly with the States surrounding Yellowstone Park—Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming—particularly with grizzly bears. Everyone recognizes the importance and wants to maintain the grizzly bear. They were developed in the park to refurbish them. We have long since, several years ago, surpassed the numbers in the plan for total recovery numbers, but they are still not de-listed; they are still listed and treated as endangered because we cannot come together on what the range ought to be. We cannot figure it out to get them de-listed.

The same thing is true with wolves. We have wolves that were there years ago and they left. The Park Service re-imported them from Canada and put them in Yellowstone Park. We knew they would not stay in Yellowstone Park and, of course, they did not. We have the same sort of problem with a predatory animal that is now in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, and it is managed as an endangered species. For people who have property at risk, sometimes even humans at risk, there is not much that can be done as long as these critters are endangered.

We seek to get a plan so they can be endangered in Yellowstone Park, but the States surrounding can have a plan to manage the animals so there is some

control. We need to shift it. Under the program that very seldom happens.

This program has been around for about 30 years. Most people would be surprised to know there has been over 1,000 animal species and 750 plant species that have been listed under the act. There have been only about 15 animals recovered. The emphasis has been on the listing, and continuing to be listed, rather than to find a way to get them recovered, which is what it is all about.

My bill would continue to have the program and would strengthen the program rather than weaken it. It did two fairly basic things. One, it requires in the listing process there be substantive and substantial scientific information. Animals can currently be listed easily by nomination, sometimes without sufficient documentation of the facts. That is clear with the so-called jumping mouse in eastern Wyoming. After it was listed, no one could find evidence it was actually there. So there really was not any scientific and useful evidence before being listed. That ought to be changed.

In addition, when there is a listing, there has to be a plan for recovery. So the range of the animal or plant is known. We know the numbers, and when appropriate, they will be de-listed.

I introduced a bill now before the Congress. I hope we can take it up in the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Senator CRAIG and Senator HAGEL are currently cosponsors. We are circulating materials and have quite a bit of support. Interestingly enough, the group that was in my office last week that represents shopping centers was very much in favor of this bill. I was pleased but surprised.

This impacts local land owners and public land managers and impacts com-

munities and State governments particularly. We can make the program useful but also workable for the people who live in the area.

We have listed over 1,800 species, including plants and animals, and there have been only 15 recoveries. There is something wrong with that. We need to look at that. Hopefully, we will have a chance to make some changes in the committee and in the Senate.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD some pertinent information.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE: THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES SYSTEM (TESS)—LISTINGS BY STATE AND TERRITORY AS OF MARCH 4, 2003

WYOMING

Notes:

Displays one record per species or population.

Includes experimental populations and similarity of appearance listings.

The range of a listed population does not extend beyond the states in which that population is defined.

Includes non-testing sea turtles and whales in State/Territory coastal waters.

Includes species or populations under the sole jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Animals—14

Bear, grizzly lower 48 States, except where listed as an experimental population (*Ursus arctos horribilis*);

Crane, whooping (except where XN) (*Grus americana*);

Crane, whooping U.S.A. (CO, ID, FL, NM, UT, and the western half of Wyoming) (*Grus americana*);

Dace, Kendall Warm Springs (*Rhinichthys osculus thermalis*);

Eagle, bald (lower 48 States) (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*);

Ferret, black-footed (except where XN) (*Mustela nigripes*);

Ferret, black-footed U.S.A. (specific portions of AZ, CO, MT, SD, UT, and WY, see 17.84(g)) (*Mustela nigripes*);

Lynx, Canada (lower 48 States DPS) (*Lynx canadensis*);

Mouse, Preble's meadow jumping (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*);

Pikeminnow (=squawfish), Colorado (except Salt and Verde R. drainages, AZ) (*Ptychocheilus lucius*);

Sucker, razorback (*Xyrauchen texanus*);

Toad, Wyoming (*Bufo baxteri* (=hemiophrys));

Wolf, gray (lower 48 States, except MN and where XN; Mexico) (*Canis lupus*); and

Wolf, gray [XN] (*Canis lupus*).

Plants—4

Butterfly plant, Colorado (*Guara neomexicana* var. *coloradensis*);

Penstemon, blowout (*Penstemon haydenii*);

Ladies'-tresses, Ute (*Spiranthes diluvialis*); and

Yellowhead, desert (*Yermo xanthocephalus*).

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES: DATA CURRENT AS OF MARCH 15, 2003

How many species in the United States are listed as threatened and endangered or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered?

517 U.S. species of animals are listed.

745 U.S. species of plants are listed.

29 U.S. species of animals are currently proposed for listing.

4 U.S. species of plants are currently proposed for listing.

How many listed species have designated critical habitat?

410 U.S. species have designated critical habitat.

How many candidate species are there?

117 species of animals are candidate species.

140 species of plants are candidate species.

How many habitat conservation plans (HCPs) have been approved?

415 habitat conservation plans have been approved.

How many listed species have approved recovery plans?

1,000 species have approved recovery plans.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES SYSTEM (TESS)

SUMMARY OF LISTED SPECIES—SPECIES AND RECOVERY PLANS AS OF MARCH 3, 2003

Group	Endangered		Threatened		Total species	U.S. species with recovery plans**
	U.S.	Foreign	U.S.	Foreign		
Mammals	65	251	9	17	342	53
Birds	78	175	14	6	273	77
Reptiles	14	64	22	15	115	32
Amphibians	12	8	9	1	30	14
Fishes	71	11	44	0	126	96
Clams	62	2	8	0	72	57
Snails	21	1	11	0	33	22
Insects	35	4	9	0	48	29
Arachnids	12	0	0	0	12	5
Crustaceans	18	0	3	0	21	13
Animal Subtotal	388	516	129	39	1072	398
Flowering Plants	570	1	144	0	715	572
Conifers and Cycads	2	0	1	2	5	2
Ferns and Allies	24	0	2	0	26	26
Lichens	2	0	0	0	2	2
Plant Subtotal	598	1	147	2	748	602
Grand Total	986	517	276	41	1820*	1000

Total U.S. Endangered—986 (388 animals, 598 plants).

Total U.S. Threatened—276 (129 animals, 147 plants).

Total U.S. Species—1262 (517 animals***, 745 plants).

*There are 1851 total listings (1288 U.S.). A listing is an E or a T in the "status" column of 50 CFR 17.11 or 17.12 (The Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants). The following types of listings are combined as single counts in the table above: species listed both as threatened and endangered (dual status), and subunits of a single species listed as distinct population segments. Only the endangered population is tallied for dual status populations (except for the following: olive ridley sea turtle; for which only the threatened U.S. population is tallied). The dual status U.S. species that are tallied endangered are: chinook salmon, gray wolf, green sea turtle, piping plover, roseate tern, sockeye salmon, steelhead, Steller sea-lion. The dual status foreign species that are tallied as endangered are: argali, chimpanzee, leopard, saltwater crocodile. Distinct population segments tallied as one include: California tiger salamander, chinook salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, steelhead. Entries that represent entire genera or families include: African viviparous toads, gibbons, lemurs, musk deer, Oahu tree snails, sifakas, uakari.

**There are 561 distinct approved recovery plans. Some recovery plans cover more than one species, and a few species have separate plans covering different parts of their ranges. Recovery plans are drawn up only for listed species that occur in the United States.

***Nine animal species have dual status in the U.S.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES
SYSTEM (TESS)

DELISTED SPECIES REPORT AS OF MARCH 15, 2003

Date species first listed	Date delisted	Species name	Reason delisted
03/11/1967	06/04/1987	Alligator, American (<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>)	Recovered.
02/17/1984	02/06/1996	Bidens, cuneate (<i>Bidens cuneata</i>)	Taxonomic revision.
04/28/1976	08/31/1984	Butterfly, Bahama swallowtail (<i>Heracles andraemon bonhotel</i>)	Act amendment.
10/26/1979	06/24/1999	Cactus Lloyd's hedgehog (<i>Echinocereus lloydii</i>)	Taxonomic revision.
11/07/1979	09/22/1993	Cactus, spineless hedgehog (<i>Echinocereus triglochidiatus</i> var. <i>inermis</i>)	Not a listable entity.
09/17/1980	08/27/2002	Cinquefoil, Robbins' (<i>Potentilla robbinsiana</i>)	Recovered.
03/11/1967	09/02/1983	Cisco, longjaw (<i>Coregonus alpenae</i>)	Extinct.
06/02/1970	09/12/1985	Dove, Palau ground (<i>Gallicolumba canifrons</i>)	Recovered.
03/11/1967	07/25/1978	Duck, Mexican (U.S.A. only) (<i>Anas "diaz"</i>)	Taxonomic revision.
06/02/1970	08/25/1999	Falcon, American peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)	Recovered.
06/02/1970	10/05/1994	Falcon, Arctic peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>)	Recovered.
06/02/1970	09/12/1985	Flycatcher, Palau fantail (<i>Rhipidura lepidia</i>)	Recovered.
04/30/1980	12/04/1987	Gambusia, Amistad (<i>Gambusia amistadensis</i>)	Extinct.
04/29/1986	06/18/1993	Globeberry, Tumamoc (<i>Tumamoca macdougalii</i>)	New information discovered.
03/11/1967	03/20/2001	Goose, Aleutian Canada (<i>Branta canadensis leucopareia</i>)	Recovered.
10/11/1979	11/27/1989	Hedgehog cactus, purple-spined (<i>Echinocereus engelmannii</i> var. <i>purpureus</i>)	Taxonomic revision.
12/30/1974	03/09/1995	Kangaroo, eastern gray (<i>Macropus giganteus</i>)	Recovered.
12/30/1974	03/09/1995	Kangaroo, red (<i>Macropus rufus</i>)	Recovered.
12/30/1974	03/09/1995	Kangaroo, western gray (<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>)	Recovered.
04/26/1978	09/14/1989	Milk-vetch, Rydberg (<i>Astragalus perianus</i>)	Recovered.
06/02/1970	09/12/1985	Owl, Palau (<i>Pyroglaux podargina</i>)	Recovered.
06/14/1976	01/09/1984	Pearlymussels Sampson's (<i>Epioblasma sampsoni</i>)	Extinct.
06/02/1970	02/04/1985	Pelican, brown (U.S. Atlantic coast, FL, AL) (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>)	Recovered.
07/13/1982	09/22/1993	Pennyroyal, McKeltrick (<i>Hedeoma apiculatum</i>)	New information discovered.
03/11/1967	09/02/1983	Pike, blue (<i>Stizostedion vitreum glaucum</i>)	Extinct.
10/13/1970	01/15/1982	Pupfish, Tecopa (<i>Cyprinodon nevadensis calidae</i>)	Extinct.
09/26/1986	02/28/2000	Shrew, Dismal Swamp southeastern (<i>Sorex longirostris fisheri</i>)	New information discovered.
03/11/1967	12/12/1990	Sparrow, dusky seaside (<i>Ammodramus maritimus nigrescens</i>)	Extinct.
06/04/1973	10/12/1983	Sparrow, Santa Barbara song (<i>Melospiza melodia graminea</i>)	Extinct.
11/11/1977	11/22/1983	Treefrog, pine barrens (FL pop.) (<i>Hyla andersoni</i>)	New information discovered.
09/13/1996	04/26/2000	Trout, coastal cutthroat (Umpqua R.) (<i>Oncorhynchus clarki clarki</i>)	Taxonomic revision.
06/14/1976	02/29/1984	Turtle, Indian flap-shelled (<i>Lissemys punctata punctata</i>)	Erroneous data.
06/02/1970	06/16/1994	Whale, gray (except where listed) (<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>)	Recovered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. What is the order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time for morning business is equally divided. The minority controls 28 minutes 19 seconds.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask I be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I appreciate the chance to speak for a few minutes on the critical economic situation we are facing in the United States and the direct effect that low crude oil inventories, combined with high energy prices, are having on the American economy. This is a particularly important time to focus on this issue because of the impending conflict with Iraq that we all are keenly aware of.

We have a situation today of constrained supply of crucial products and very high prices. We saw nearly 3 million barrels of oil per day come off the market during the Venezuela crisis which began in December. This—combined with an unusually cold winter in the eastern part of the United States and refiners drawing down their crude oil inventories—has left crude oil and crude product markets extremely tight.

From a supply standpoint, we are operating on very thin margins. Any accident that unexpectedly shuts a refinery or interrupts flow through a major pipeline is capable of producing real shocks in our supply of these products. It has happened before. In 1996, a pipeline emergency blocked deliveries to refineries in the Midwest during a

similar period of tight supplies. In the year 2000, a dock collapsed along the Intracoastal Waterway near Lake Charles, LA, curtailing supplies to two major gulf coast refineries.

The sharp increase in energy prices that we have seen so far this year has caused a major problem for our economy. The Nation's manufacturing sector continues to struggle. Consumers across America are faced with real hardships because of these high prices. Nearly all of the inflationary pressures that our economy is experiencing are coming from increased energy costs, which jumped 4.8 percent in January. They jumped an even sharper 7.4 percent in February—the largest 1-month jump since 1990. Excluding increases in the food and energy items, the core inflation index actually dropped 0.5 percent in February, instead of rising as it did.

The simple truth of the matter is this. Rising energy prices are keeping Americans from spending their hard-earned dollars elsewhere. Given the current energy price environment, consumers are likely to pay more than \$200 billion in higher energy costs this year. This \$200 billion works out to be about 2 percent of our gross domestic product, which is no small item.

The obvious question we need to be asking is, Where does this money come from? Companies are not hiring. In fact, they are laying people off.

A looming crisis that should worry all of us exists in the Nation's chemical industry. We are in danger of losing our domestic chemical industry as high natural gas prices push it to operate offshore. That, of course, will result in the loss of thousands of more good, high-paying American jobs.

U.S. oil and natural gas stocks are dangerously low and the risk that energy price spikes will continue to sig-

nificantly damage our economy is a very real prospect.

Gasoline and diesel prices are at near decade highs. In fact, in my home State of New Mexico and across the country, diesel prices are at an all-time high—\$1.75 per gallon today.

High diesel prices have a direct impact on the trucking industry. There was an article in the Albuquerque Journal this weekend that talked about the impact of high energy prices on consumers and on the trucking industry. I ask unanimous consent to have that article printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. BINGAMAN. In my home State, again, 12 percent of the State's population is estimated to be involved in the trucking industry. High diesel prices are shutting down small trucking companies every day. These are real economic effects. We are all well aware of the problems in the airline industry as well and the threatened bankruptcy of some of our major airlines; in part traceable to the high price of energy.

In our discussion of the current situation and use of the SPR, we have used several phrases. One—"Likely to cause a major adverse impact on the national economy. . . ."—that description matches very closely the statutory provisions we wrote into the law when we created the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

As I read that statute and look around at what is happening, it is clear to me that the time has come to act on that statutory authority. I have repeatedly asked the administration to clearly state what its policy is with regard to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and they have refused to do so as